

IN RECOGNITION OF "WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK"

WHEREAS, more than one billion people – one sixth of the world's population – are between the ages of 15 and 24, the largest generation ever in this age bracket; and

WHEREAS, nearly half the world's population, and 63% in the least developed countries, is under age 25; and

WHEREAS, 17 million young women between the ages of 15-19 give birth every year, including some 13 million who live in less developed countries; and

WHEREAS, early pregnancy and childbearing is associated with serious health risks, as well as education and lower future income potential for young mothers; and

WHEREAS, risks of dying from complications of pregnancy or childbirth are 25 times higher for girls under 15, and two times higher for women between 15-19; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of the 5 million people infected with HIV last year were young people aged 15-24; and

WHEREAS, almost 12 million young people now live with HIV, and about 6,000 more become infected every day; and

WHEREAS, the choices young people make today regarding their sexual and reproductive lives, including responsible male behavior, will determine whether world population stabilizes at 8 billion or less or 9 billion or more; and

WHEREAS, the theme of World Population Awareness Week, proclaimed last year by United States Governors of 31 states, Mayor's of 288 U.S. cities, and 266 organizations from 77 countries, is "Population and the Next Generation".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Young, Mayor of the City of Augusta, do hereby proclaim October 20-26, 2002, as "WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK" and urge all citizens to take cognizance of this event and to participate appropriately in its observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Augusta, Georgia, to be affixed this 20th day of October 2002.